THE

PROPAGANDA BATTLEFRONT

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"Anti" Propagandists Carry On

When Gerald L. K. Smith, the Detroit rabble-rouser and head of the America First Party, suggested this month that Senator Robert Rice Reynolds run for President of the United States on the America First ticket in 1944, the Senator said he was "flattered and honored." This means that the "nationalists" at long last may have found what they are looking for — a Leader who really will "lead," a Man on a White Horse around whom the variegated crack-pots, fascists, nationalists, anti-Semites and Anglophobes can flock.

That Man on Horseback

The search for That Man on Horseback has been going on in this country for some years, but for various reasons the chosen Leaders just didn't get around to leading. For a time it looked as if Major General George Van Horn Moseley, U.S.A. retired, might be The One to lead America into the promised land of the Fuehrers, Aryans, etc. The native fascists liked him just fine, and he liked them. But the small-time leaders couldn't get along with each other. They squabbled, and the whole movement fell apart before the Major General could reach the White House. Then Charles A. Lindbergh looked promising. Although all the fascists were for him 100 per cent, he couldn't get around to committing himself one way or the other on how well he liked them. Indications were that he was beginning to think them rather nice, but Pearl Harbor arrived at this crucial moment.

Almost two years have passed and the movement again is in full swing. The word "nationalist" has been substituted for the word "fascist," but most of the faces are the same—including those of Senator Reynolds and the Rev. Gerald Smith.

The Senator's record makes him particularly well fitted for his new role. Reynolds edited the "American Vindicator" before Pearl Harbor, (his paper now is called "The National Record") and copies of that newspaper were peddled at meetings of the German-American Bund and the Christian Front. He thought we shouldn't go to war against Germany to save "minorities." He argued that there was virtue in Nazism and fascism, for, after all, Hitler and Mussolini had solved their unemployment problems, hadn't they? Before the Japanese bombed us he sounded exactly like Tojo's Ministry of Propaganda and Public Enlightenment. He insisted that the *United States* had declared war on poor little innocent Japan by extending a loan to China.

Reynold's association with persons now under indictment for sedition are numerous. He inserted in the Congressional Record a speech by Gerald Winrod; Winrod is under indictment for sedition. In

1939 he was one of the authors of a resolution to appoint William Griffin as a special roving ambassador to visit various European countries; Griffin is under indictment for sedition. He was implicated in the Prescott Dennett - George Hill - George Sylvester Viereck franking scandal; Dennett and Viereck are under indictment for sedition, and Hill was sent to jail for perjury. He inserted in the Congressional Record an anti-Semitic, anti-alien article from Domenico Trombetta's "Il Grido della Stirpe." Trombetta has been denaturalized and indicted as an unregistered foreign agent. Elizabeth Dilling says that Reynolds praised her "wonderful patriotism"; Mrs. Dilling is under indictment for sedition.

If it ever occurred to Reynolds that he might have been wrong or that his associates might be unsavory, he hasn't made any public statements to that effect. Instead, he congratulated himself on his own good judgment by saying that he's "1,000 times more isolationist" now than he was before Pearl Harbor.

There can be little doubt that Reynolds means what he says when he says that he's "flattered and honored" at Smith's suggestion. The Senator has announced that he does not intend to seek re-election in North Carolina when his term expires next year, yet he plans to "continue in public life" to champion "the best interests of my State and my country." In other words, Reynolds will be free to lead a third party movement. The "nationalists" who make up the movement like the Senator, and the Senator likes them. Everything is all set.

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Robert Rice Reynolds is not sitting idly by while the Rev. Gerald L. K. Smith grooms him for Leadership. The Senator is making friends on his own here and there; when The Day arrives he can reap the support he currently is cultivating.

Sidelight

Reynold's latest gesture of friendship was extended to Gerald Winrod, familiarly known as the "Jayhawk Nazi," who heads the list of 33 persons now under indictment for sedition. Now just because the Rev. Winrod is in bad repute his following is not to be underestimated. He is a Fundamentalist minister who tours the country during the summer holding revival meetings; he still speaks over the radio with regularity; he once polled more than 50,000 votes when he sought the Republican nomination for the United States Senate—and 50,000 is a sizable number of votes in Kansas.

It all started late in September when Winrod arrived in St. Petersburg, Florida, to hold a series of meetings. Nelson Poynter, editor of the St. Petersburg "Times," ran a front-page editorial attacking Winrod for following the Nazi line and for his connections with World Service, a German propaganda agency. Winrod bought space in the "Independent," a rival newspaper, to answer Poynter's attack. (Incidentally, Friends of Democracy has in its files documents proving that Poynter was right.) One of Winrod's friends sent a copy of that particular issue of the "Independent" to Senator Robert Rice Reynolds.

Reynolds, who had had dealings with Winrod before, apparently felt sympathetic. He sat down and wrote the Reverend a letter: "I read every word of your reply with deep interest. These character assassins are still at large but the day of reckoning will arrive. . . ."

* * *

Out on Bail

Joan McBride, a former waitress at the Deutsches Haus, headquarters of the German-American Bund in Los Angeles, recently was released on $2,000 bail from the California Institution for Women at Tehachepi.

Mrs. McBride, along with eight others, was convicted more than a year ago for failure to register with the California Secretary of State as a member of the governing body of a subversive organization. She was sentenced to five years in prison.

As the last issue of the BATTLEFRONT reported, Genevieve Kerrigan and Leone Menier, who were convicted along with Mrs. McBride, also have been released. All three obtained their freedom through the intercession of C. Leon de Aryan, editor of the "Broom" in San Diego, California. De Aryan, who is under Federal indictment for sedition himself, claims that the California law under which the three were sentenced is un-Constitutional.

Mrs. McBride was born in East Prussia, Germany, and came to the United States, she says, when she was "very young." Active with various "nationalist" groups on the West Coast, she proclaimed that Hitler was a "very great man." She consistently wore a swastika bracelet.

Besides her connections with the German-American Bund, Mrs. McBride was active in the Friends of Progress, the National Copperheads and the America First Committee.

It was the Friends of Progress and the National Copperheads, run by Robert Noble and Ellis O. Jones respectively, that staged the mock impeachment proceedings against President Roosevelt. The impeachment trial lasted well after Pearl Harbor. And it was Robert Noble who, during the battle for Bataan, yelled, "To hell with MacArthur!"

With Noble and Jones, Mrs. McBride used to picket the offices of a Los Angeles dentist because he advertised in an "interventionist" newspaper. When she testified before the California State Legislative Committee Investigating Un-American Activities, she wore the official National Copperhead pin.

An enthusiastic supporter of the America First Committee, Mrs. McBride acted as usher at the America First rally addressed by Senator Burton K. Wheeler. Among her other duties was that of silencing hecklers.

The social prestige of Elizabeth Dilling apparently hasn't been impaired by her indictment for sedition. She still is invited out to dinner to hear speeches by Gov. Green of Illinois, Senator C. Wayland Brooks, and Col. Robert McCormick, publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*. She must find the Colonel's speeches especially refreshing. He defends the 33 persons (including herself) who are under indictment for conspiring to undermine the morale of the armed forces; he includes in his talks little squibs like this: "Leadership for the protection of our form of government must come from the west because in the east it is confused by that most extraordinary alliance of *international capital and international communism. . . .*"

Speaking of Mrs. Dilling — during the last few weeks she has been writing articles for nearly every issue of C. Leon de Aryan's "The Broom." She has been telling de Aryan's readers what a "menace" the Jews are, keeping them informed about the fine points of the "Bible of the Anti-Christ" which is being sponsored by Boake Carter, and insisting that there is a conspiracy afoot to rewrite the King James version of the Bible. This is the first time Mrs. Dilling has written for Mr. de Aryan with any regularity—she's branching out.

And speaking of Mr. de Aryan—shortly after the 33 persons (including de Aryan) were indicted for sedition, "The Broom" was reduced from a full-sized four-page newspaper to a four-page tabloid. The contents became almost innocuous—it was full of stories on the blessings of vegetarianism and reprints from liberal isolationist and pacifist newspapers. But de Aryan now is getting back into the swing of things. Recently he enlarged "The Broom" so that it is a full-sized paper again. And de Aryan is beginning to sound like himself. Again he's saying that "fair dealing . . . is alien to Jews," that Mr. Roosevelt "is not God," that "patriotism, contrary to divine law, is an absurdity," etc., etc.

The papers a short time back announced that Senators Burton K. Wheeler and Gerald P. Nye have been meeting with "the bush league friend of

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PROPAGANDA IS A WEAPON

Propaganda is a weapon as much as submarines, tanks and bombers. Friends of Democracy has been carrying on a militant campaign against anti-democratic propaganda for a number of years. The impact of the Axis propaganda is now tremendous. Therefore, it is necessary for Friends of Democracy to carry on more vigorously than heretofore. Our organization invites the cooperation and support of all who are concerned about the preservation of democratic civilization.

fascism, Joseph P. Kamp, and one Michael Ahearn." Because Kamp has received wide publicity from time to time, his background was pretty well covered, but no one seemed to know anything about Ahearn.

As a matter of fact, Ahearn's record is worse than Kamp's. Back in the early 1930's he organized the original America First, Inc., with James True—the man who invented and patented the "Kike Killer." Ahearn used to lecture weekly before the leaders of the American National Labor Party, an offshoot of the German-American Bund. He was closely associated with George Deatherage, the acknowledged fascist who is now under indictment for sedition. He was active at the anti-Semitic Conference at Asheville, North Carolina. More recently he worked as "Research Director" for Cathrine Curtis, whose organization, the Women Investors In America, was named in the sedition indictment as a vehicle through which the alleged conspirators worked against the morale of our armed forces.

Carl Mote, the Indiana utilities president and editor of "America Preferred," is continuing to lay the groundwork for his campaign for a place in the United States Senate. With Tom Linder, he recently addressed the annual meeting of the Farmer's Guild, a group which apparently spends more time on "Nationalism" than on agriculture.

FRIENDS OF DEMOCRACY, INC.
137 East 57th Street
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VOL. 1—No. XI

"THE MAILED FIST"

"We may expect much propaganda before and after the conflict is ended to trick the American people into debate over the extent of Germany's guilt. Already, you hear attempts to differentiate between 'the Nazis' and Germany." — From the preface of S. L. G. Knox's illuminating pamphlet, "The Mailed Fist 1864-1939; The Background of Hitlerism," published by Friends of Democracy, Inc.

Propaganda to whitewash the German nation serves a double purpose: (1) Preserve German military and economic power for World War III; (2) Commit soft-hearted British and Americans to a dangerous rift with our Russian allies when the Russians insist realistically that the Germans pay the full penalty of German war guilt.

The Knox pamphlet is a specific antidote for the poison of such propaganda. German Nazism is exposed with documented evidence as merely the latest expression of a systematic pattern of German aggrandizement, by aggression, which has been followed with calculatedly evil purpose for over seventy-five years.

"The Mailed Fist" is admittedly the case of the prosecution; yet it is made so airtight, with both direct and circumstantial evidence, that those who are armed with the facts it presents will be fairly impervious to the subtlest propaganda. Mr. Knox shows that eleven times in the seventy-five years before the outbreak of war in 1914, the German Empire and its predecessor Prussia followed out the pattern which finally should have become clear to all in 1938. In only one of the eleven moves did the Germans fail to accomplish their purpose—German aggrandizement. That was in the war of 1914-1918.

"It is therefore important," says the author, "that those who want to consider fairly and intelligently the appalling situation with which the world is confronted, should know the story of Germany's attitude in European affairs. . . . Only thus can they decide whether the repudiation of 'war guilt,' which Hitler emphasized in winning his way to power, and in organizing Germany for new wars, is, or is not justified."